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KARAGANDA COAL MINE PRODUCTIVITY AND MINING INNOVATIONS

Productivity of Mines

Eight mines of the Karagandaugol' Combine are at present delivering coal on their May quotas. More than 100 trainloads of coal above their quotas have been shipped to industrial enterprises of the country by workers of the mines imeni Zhdanov, imeni Gor'kiy, No 1, No 17-bis, No 31, No 38, No 55, and No 105.(1)

However, the Stalinugol' Trust of the combine was criticised at a Stalinckiy Rayon committee meeting in August 1952 for not fulfilling the state plans. Although the trust's daily output has increased as a result of the accomplishments of mines No 1, No 18, and imeni Gor'kiy, the number of mines not meeting their quotas has risen. Only four out of the entire number of mines fulfilled the 1952 plan and most of the mines are not meeting their 1953 quotas.(2)

Mine No 1, one of the outstanding mines of the Stalinugol' Trust, has completed the 5-month plan and shipped, since the beginning of May, two trainloads of coking coal above the plan to the Magnitogorsk Metallurgical Combine.(3)

Section No 2 of Mine No 18, also an outstanding mine of the Stalinugol' Trust, is working the third western face along the Feliks seam. The face is 210-220 meters long. Workers at this section were previously employed at the second eastern face, where working conditions similar to the third western face prevailed. For example, the thickness of the seam being removed was 2.0-2.1 meters. Directly in the roof lies an ashy coal pocket 10-15 centimeters thick. The main roof of sandstone is 28-30 meters thick. Good work organization and equipment enabled the miners to raise the daily output of the face from 311 to 662 tons and, occasionally to 800 tons. The staff of workers in the section was reduced by 60 persons who were transferred to other sections. Labor productivity per worker per day rose from 3.34 to 5.8 tons and the productivity of the loading machine rose to 12,000 tons per month. As a result of the use of metal props, the consumption of mine timbers dropped 20 cubic meters per 1,000 tons of coal output.(4)

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On 23 April open pit No 1-2 and Mine No 106 completed the 4-month program.(1)

Performance of Coal-Mining Combines

The operator of a combine [make not specified] in the Mine imeni Gor'kiy mined 11,596 tons of coal in January, 11,760 tons in February, and 12,086 tons in March, as against a monthly plan of 6,200 tons. The 4-month plan was fulfilled 15 days ahead of schedule.

Operators of a Donbass combine in Mine No 31 have pledged to raise the monthly productivity of the combine to 20,000 tons; at present they are mining 18,000-19,000 tons of coal monthly, completing their norms $2\frac{1}{2}$ times. The productivity of the machine is almost 3,000 tons higher than in 1952.

Karaganda mines No 1, No 26, No 55/57, and No 100 are included in the number of mines which are mining 12,000-15,000 tons of coal or more per month with the Donbass combine. However, there are mines which are not achieving these good results. For example, Mine No 18-bis, where the Donbass combine and the loading machine are poorly utilized. The productivity of the combine at a face in the fourth section was particularly low. It was mining not more than 2,000-2,500 tons of coal per month and now it is completely out of operation.(5)

New Mining Method Introduced

Many mines in Karaganda are working thick coal seams. The Verkhnyaya Marianna seam, up to 8 meters thick, is being worked by the mines imeni Zhdanov, imeni Kirov, No 20-bis, No 18, No 18-bis, No 33-34 and others. Exploitation of the thick seam is carried out predominantly by a slicing method, whereby the top and bottom slices of the seam are removed but considerable coal suitable for coking remains underground in the middle slice of the seam.

In 1950, when Donbass combines appeared in the basin, certain mines introduced a new slicing method which provided for the removal of the seam in three slices. This method is being used at all three faces of Mine No 20-bis of the Leninugol' Trust. The top layer of the seam, where the toughest coal is to be found, is sliced with the aid of a KMP-1 cutting machine. The Makarov coal aggregate and Donbass combine work on the middle and bottom layers. During 2 years of work by this method in the fourth level of the eastern wing of the mine, the mine delivered an additional 100,000 tons of coal to plants. Mine No 20-bis is the only one in Karaganda where this method has been adopted at all working faces. The method is being gradually introduced into other mines exploiting thick seams.

In 1952, the Ministry of the Coal Industry USSR directed chief Inozemtsev of the Karagandaugol' Combine and chief engineer Bratchenko to introduce the new method in all mines working the Verkhnyaya Marianna seam. However, the directors of the combine confined themselves to holding two meetings with directors of the mines regarding the urgency of introducing the three-slice method. The matter made no further progress.(6)

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Utilization of Impregnated Timbers

On 6 May 1953, the first timber-impregnating installation in the Karaganda basin began to operate in Mine No 101 of the Leninugol' Trust. As a result wooden props are impregnated with a special solution under high pressure before they are set up. Impregnation of timbers intended for propping development workings increases the period of service of each prop from 3-4 months to 2 years.

On 6 May the Mine imeni Kostenko of the Stalinugol' Trust completed the assembly of equipment for a second timber-impregnation installation. By the end of 1953, 6,000 linear meters of haulage passages will be propped with impregnated timbers. By Miner's Day /30 August 1953/ ten timber-impregnating installations will be put into operation in the basin.(7)

SOURCES

1. Kishinev, Sovetskaya Moldaviya, 25 Apr 53
2. Alma-Ata, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 13 Feb 53
3. Ibid., 14 May 53
4. Moscow, Master Uglya, No 2, Feb 53
5. Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 12 May 53
6. Moscow, Izvestiya, 15 May 53
7. Moscow, Trud, 7 May 53

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